



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 20, 2009

Mr. C. Patrick Phillips
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2009-11738

Dear Mr. Phillips:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 352729 (FW ID# 3934-09).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for information relating to all police calls to a specified address. You state you have released the majority of the responsive information. You state the city will withhold certain Texas motor vehicle record information pursuant to the previous determinations issued to the city in Open Records Letter Nos. 2006-14726 (2006) and 2007-00198 (2007). See Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 at 7-8 (2001). In addition, you state the city will withhold social security numbers pursuant to section 552.147 of the Government Code. See Gov't Code § 552.147(b) (governmental body may redact social security number without necessity of requesting decision from this office under the Act). You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. See *id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state, and have provided an affidavit representing, case number 09-48143 relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based on your representation, we find release of information relating to case number 09-48143 would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. See *Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976)

(court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases). Thus, we agree section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code is generally applicable to this information.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. See Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the department may withhold information relating to case number 09-48143 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code. Chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes the development of local emergency communication districts. Sections 772.118, 772.218, and 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code are applicable to emergency 9-1-1 districts established in accordance with chapter 772. See Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). These sections make the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers furnished by a service supplier confidential. *Id.* at 2. Section 772.118 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than two million. Section 772.218 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 860,000. Section 772.318 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000.

You state the city is part of an emergency communication district established under section 772.218. You state the telephone numbers and addresses you have marked are related to 9-1-1 calls and were obtained from a 9-1-1 service provider. Based on your representations, we conclude the city must withhold the originating telephone numbers and addresses you have marked in the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code.

Section 552.101 also encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). The types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. Upon review, we find the information we have marked is intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public interest. Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. However, the city has failed to demonstrate how the remaining information is intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public interest. Thus, none of the remaining information

may be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the information relating to case number 09-48143 pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the originating telephone numbers and addresses you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code. The city must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The remaining submitted information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Stack
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KES/jb

Ref: ID# 352729

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)